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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6665

BILL NUMBER: SB 236

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 28, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Various Education Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Delph

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *School Athletics:* This bill provides that a school corporation may participate in an interscholastic athletics association only if the association does not conduct boys' or girls' interscholastic basketball games in which the teams are divided into classes.

Instructional Time: The bill provides that a school placed in the highest category or designation of academic performance is not required to conduct a school year of at least 180 student instructional days if the school conducts at least an equivalent number of hours of student instructional time.

School Calendar: This bill prohibits public schools from beginning student instructional days for the school year before the Tuesday after the first Monday in September (Labor Day) and from ending after June 10 of the following year, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. The bill provides that a governing body may establish a beginning date before Labor Day or an end date for a school year that is later than June 10 for year-round schools, schools with balanced calendars, schools that coordinate calendars with a postsecondary educational institution, and schools that coordinate calendars with a large employer in the school corporation following public hearings and a majority vote of the governing body. It also provides that a governing body may establish an end date for a school year that is later than June 10 for any school following public hearings and a majority vote of the governing body. The bill makes the change effective for collective bargaining agreements and contracts negotiated after June 30, 2014.

Cursive Writing: The bill requires each school corporation to include cursive writing in the curriculum of the school corporation. It requires an accredited nonpublic school that participates in the Choice Scholarship program to include cursive writing in the school's curriculum.

High Performance: The bill creates a designation of "high performing school corporation", and provides that certain statutes and rules are waived for a high performing school corporation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *School Calendar:* The provision changing the start and ending dates of the school year should have no impact on state expenditures. Schools would still be required to have at least 180 days of instruction per year.

Instructional Time: The bill could reduce the possible recovery of tuition support from schools that are in the highest performance category and that do not meet the required instruction time. Current law provides a reduction in tuition support for each day under the 180-day requirement. Under the bill, schools that do not provide the minimum 900 hours in Grades 1 through 6 and 1,080 hours in Grades 7 through 12 will have their tuition support reduced for each day less than the current 180-day requirement.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *School Athletics:* The requirement that schools not participate in an athletic association that has class basketball should have no fiscal impact.

Instructional Time: The bill would allow high performing schools to modify the school calendar from the current 180-day minimum school year to a different calendar.

The bill could reduce local school expenditures, depending on if a school chooses to reduce the number of instructional days in the school calendar. Schools that currently have to make up lost days due to weather conditions or lose tuition support revenue might not have to as long as they had 900 hours of instruction for Grades 1 through 6 and 1,080 hours of instruction for Grades 7 through 12.

Schools spent about \$36.4 M per day from the school general fund and \$2.9 M per day to transport students to school during the 2011 school year. Schools might also have reduced utility and school lunch expenditures if the number of days are reduced.

School Calendar: There could be some impact on schools depending on how the school structures the calendar. The number of teacher contract days are not changed by the bill. Schools would still operate the same number of days. There could be some reduction in heating and cooling costs, depending on when school is held. For FY 2011, schools spent about \$121.4 M on heating and cooling of schools.

Cursive Writing: The bill should not increase school expenditures. In the past, cursive writing was part of the curriculum. Cursive writing instruction might have to replace some other instruction currently done by schools.

High Performance: The bill would waive certain rules and statutes if a school meets or exceeds at least 90% of the benchmarks established for school corporations in the areas of:

1. ISTEP performance.
2. Graduation rate.
3. Postsecondary enrollment.
4. ACT and SAT scores.
5. College readiness data.

6. Student attendance.
7. Faculty proficiency.
8. Other benchmarks established by Department of Education.

The following rules or statutes would be waived.

1. Length of student instructional days.
2. Minimum number of student instructional days.
3. Penalty for failure to conduct minimum number of instructional days.
4. Minimum length of school term.
5. Application requirements for community or volunteer service credits.
6. Necessity for a waiver to implement nonstandard courses and curriculum programs.
7. Program requirement for high-ability students.
8. Necessity for a waiver of certain rules for programs for high-ability students.

The provision could reduce school administrative costs and program costs for high performing schools. The amount of the saving is unknown.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Public schools and private schools receiving Choice Scholarships.

Information Sources: Department of Education databases.

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